esters or mixtures of anionic oligomeric esters according to claim **4**.

16. A detergent composition comprising from about 1% to about 30% by weight of a detersive surfactant selected from the group consisting of anionic surfactants, cationic surfactants, nonionic surfactants, zwitterionic surfactants and mixtures thereof and from about 0.1% to about 4% by weight of anionic oligomeric esters or mixtures of anionic oligomeric esters according to claim **8**.

17. A heavy-duty liquid detergent composition comprising, by weight:

(a) from about 10% to about 35% of an anionic surfactant on an acid basis;

(b) from 0% to about 15% of an ethoxylated nonionic surfactant of the formula $R^1(OC_2H_4)_jOH$, wherein R^1 is a C_{10}–C_{16} alkyl group or a C_8–C_{12} alkyl phenyl group, j averages from about 3 to about 9, and said nonionic surfactant has an HLB of from about 10 to about 13;

(c) from about 0% to about 15% of a cosurfactant selected from the group consisting of:

(i) quaternary ammonium surfactants having the formula:

$$[R^2(OR^3)_y][R^4(OR^3)_y]_2R^5N^+X^-$$

wherein R^2 is an alkyl or alkyl benzyl group having from about 6 to about 16 carbon atoms in the alkyl chain; each R^3 is selected from the group consisting of $-CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH(CH_3)-$, $-CH(CH_3)CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH(CH_2OH)-$, $-CH_2CH_2CH_2-$, and mixtures thereof; each R^4 is selected from the group consisting of C_1–C_4 alkyl, C_1–C_4 hydroxyalkyl, benzyl, and hydrogen when y is not 0; R^5 is the same as R^4 or is an alkyl chain wherein the total number of carbon atoms of R^2 plus R^5 is from about 8 to about 16; each y averages from 0 to about 10 and the sum of the y values is from 0 to about 15; and X is any compatible anion;

(ii) amine surfactants having the formula:

$$[R^2(OR^3)_y][R^4(OR^3)_y]R^5N$$

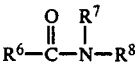
wherein R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5 and y are as defined above;

(iii) amine oxide surfactants having the formula:

$$[R^2(OR^3)_y][R^4(OR^3)_y]R^5N\rightarrow O$$

wherein R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5 and y are as defined above;

(iv) an amide surfactant of the formula:



wherein R^6 is an alkyl, hydroxyalkyl or alkenyl radical containing from about 8 to about 20 carbon atoms, and R^7 and R^8 are each selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, 2-hydroxyethyl, 2-hydroxypropyl, 3-hydroxypropyl, and wherein said radicals additionally contain up to about 5 ethylene oxide units; and

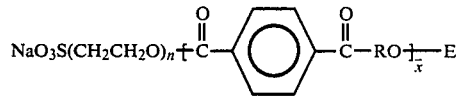
(v) mixtures thereof;

(d) from about 5% to about 30% of detergent builder;

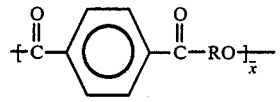
(e) a neutralization system;

(f) an aqueous solvent system;

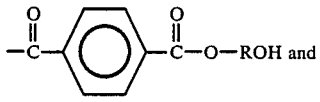
(g) from about 0.1% to about 5.0% of anionic oligomeric soil release esters having the formula

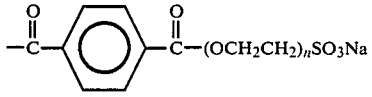


wherein all R substituents are independently selected from $-CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH(CH_3)-$ and $-CH(CH_3)CH_2-$, n is an integer from 2 to 15 or is a number from 2 to 15 representing an average degree of ethoxylation, $\bar{x}$ is the average degree of polymerization of the ester backbone

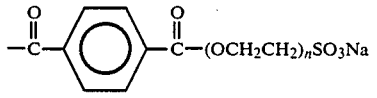


and is a number between 0.3 and 7; and E is a mixture of the substituents



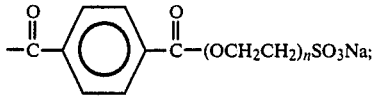


provided that at at least 0.5 mole fraction of said E substituents are



substituents and further provided that at least 0.1 mole fraction of the total of all R substituents are 1,2-propylene substituents.

18. A detergent composition according to claim **17** comprising anionic oligomeric soil release esters wherein at least 0.95 mole fraction of the E substituents are



wherein the average degree of ethoxylation, n, is greater than 2; wherein the average degree of polymerization of the ester backbone, $\bar{x}$, is at least about 1.75; and wherein at least 0.33 mole fraction of the total of all R substituents are 1,2-propylene substituents.

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